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NEWS RELEASE

TO: Area Media Outlets

FROM: Dominic Smith
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RE: **H1N1 Vaccine**

RUN: Immediate Release

As soon as the H1N1 Influenza vaccine becomes available for distribution, the public will be notified. The Health Department will receive weekly incremental shipments of the H1N1 Influenza vaccine when it becomes available and it is unknown at this time how many doses BCHD will receive. At this time, we are proceeding with plans to vaccinate the general population.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. These target groups include:

- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- Pregnant women
- People who live or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems

Residents will be able to obtain the H1N1 Influenza vaccine through a combination of settings such as community based vaccination clinics organized by the Bay County Health Department, healthcare provider offices, and private settings such as pharmacies. Bay County residents will soon be able to get the nasal form of the vaccine at some local provider offices, however, the BCHD, along with community partners, will administer the injectable form of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. There will be no charge for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine; however, there may be a fee for the administration of the vaccine.

There has been very little H1N1 illness in people 65 and older since the 2009 H1N1 virus emerged. Studies of who is most likely to be infected with 2009 H1N1 show that people 65 and older are the **least likely** to get sick with the

virus. While people 65 and older aren't considered in the high risk groups for 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccination, they will be able to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine as soon as the target groups have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. People age 65 and older remain at increased risk for complications from **seasonal influenza** compared to younger people and are recommended for annual **seasonal flu vaccine**.

Residents are currently able to receive **seasonal influenza vaccine** from the Bay County Health Department. If you are interested in obtaining your **seasonal flu shot** from the Bay County Health Department, please contact the Immunization Clinic at (989) 895-4009 Ext. 2.

For more information about H1N1 and seasonal flu, visit the Bay County Health Department's webpage at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health.

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